

Sacheverell

A G A I N S T

Sacheverell;

O R,

The Detector of *False Brethren*
Prov'd *Unnatural* and *Base* to his own
Grandfather, and other Relations.

In a LETTER to
Dr. HENRY SACHEVERELL,
From his

U N C L E :

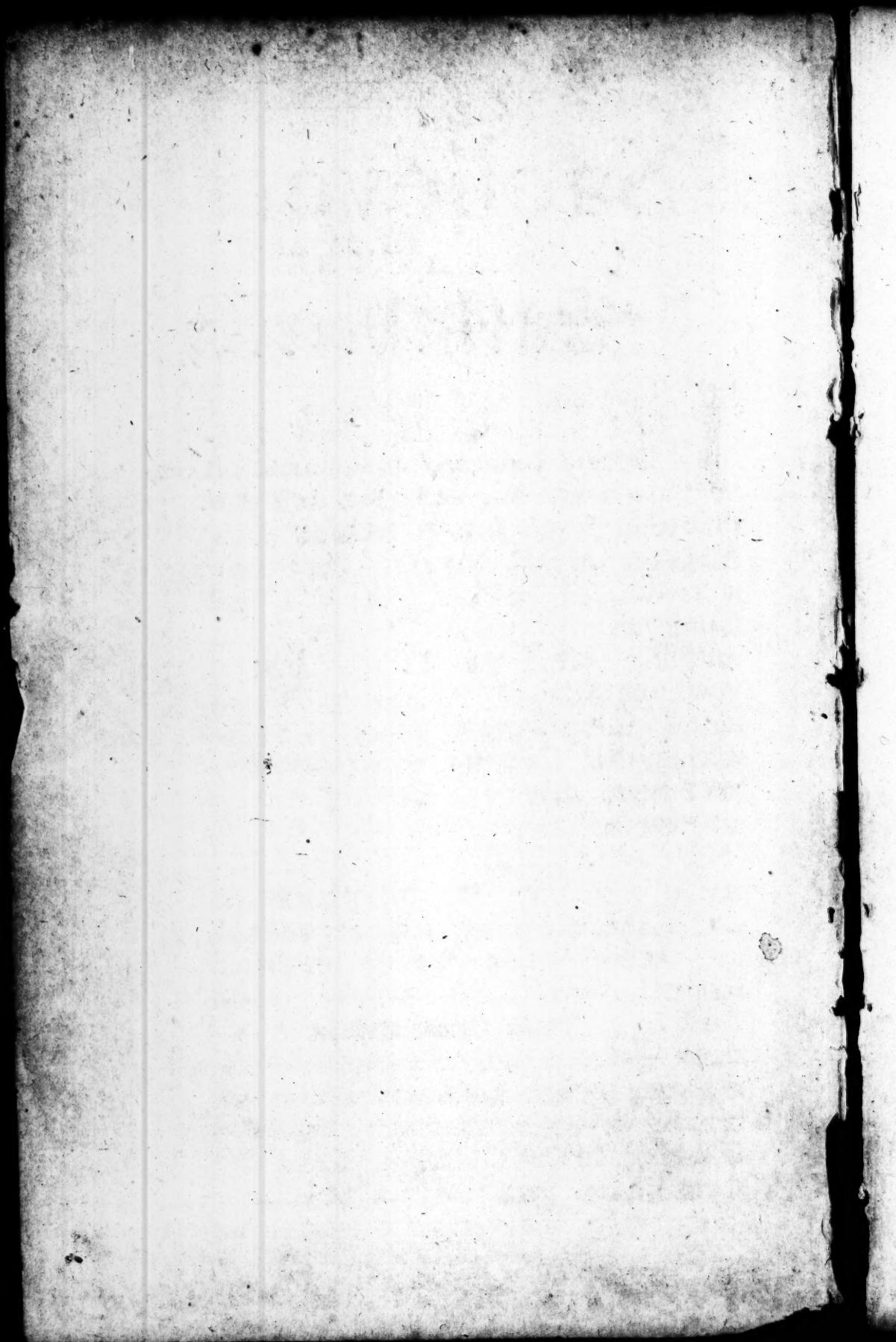
Written upon Occasion of the Aspersions un-
justly cast upon his Family, in a late Vindi-
cation of the said Doctor from Mr. Bissop's
Charge of Fanaticism.

He that troubleth his own House shall inherit the Wind,
Prov. 11. 29.

*The Lip of Truth shall be established for ever, but a lying
Tongue is but for a Moment,* Prov. 12. 19.

The Second Edition.

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the *Oxford-Arms* in *Warwick-lane*: And *T. Harrison*
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Feb. 20. 1748.

Reverend SIR,

I Have lately read two Books ; one written by Mr. *Bisset*, and the other by your Advocate, published by your own Consent and Approbation ; and having rectified some Mistakes in the former, shall now endeavour to confute some false and scandalous Allegations in the latter, touching only what relates to some of your own Kindred, whose injur'd Reputation 'tis my Duty to vindicate, by detecting that Calumny wherewith they have been aspers'd ; in Consideration whereof an indispensable Necessity has oblig'd me to publish the subsequent Narrative, *viz.* That Mr. *Bisset* knew me not, neither had he any Information from me, of any thing that he published concerning you or my self, before his Book appear'd in Print, and so he became misinform'd of that particular Paragraph, which represented me as one coming to you, either with an Intention of asking, or in Expectation of receiving some Money from you ; for whatsoever

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has

has been Printed on that Head, is altogether groundless, and you know it to be so; but that Mr. Bisset was not much mistaken, in a more material Paragraph, is evident from the following full and true Account of that Visit I made you.

Viz. That on the 30th of March, 1710. the Day that I visited you, my first Words were these; *Sir, I come to pay my Respects to you as a Relation:* To which you replied, *What Relation?* My Answer was, *Your Father and I were Brothers by Father's Side:* Having said thus, your first Greeting of me thereupon was this, *Your Father dealt villainously and barbarously by my Father;* at which Words I was much surpris'd, and therefore besought you to tell me wherein it did consist; for that I knew nothing of it, but instead thereof, you repeated the same Charge against your Grandfather, refusing to make Proof of it in any one Particular: And tho' in your late scurrilous Vindication, you have falsely charg'd him and his Family with some hainous Crimes, yet I shall fully make it evident, that all your foul Aspersions are as extremely abusive as they are altogether groundless: But to go on with the Conference; You then alledg'd, *That your Uncle Samuel had aspers'd you;* but because you would not tell me wherein, I therefore thought it a groundless

less Reflection. Your next Words were these; *Now I have gone through my Troubles, and gain'd a great many Friends, now you come to me.* I indeed wonder'd what could be your Meaning by this Expression, because I had ask'd no Favour from you; but from hence I believe arose that Mistake, which represented me as one coming to ask Money of you: Nevertheless, my Answer was this; *Sir, I was sorry to hear that you came into those Troubles, but glad when I heard that you got so well out of them.* Which civil Answer, one would have thought, might have merited some suitable Return; but instead thereof, your next Words were these; *I will not own my self related to any of my Fanatick Kindred, and so you may go about your Business, for I will have nothing to say to you:* But before I did withdraw, I ask'd how your Mother, and my Cousin Susanna, your Sister, did; to which you replied, *What is that to you? they shall none of them have any thing to do with you, or any of my broken damn'd Fanatick Kindred, for I will own my self related to none of them, and so you may go about your Business, &c.* Observing thus how you rav'd, altho' I stood all the while uncover'd, and was not so much as ask'd to sit down; I thereupon withdrew, and you wish'd I might live to repent, but of what you did not inform me.

This was the true and real Substance of the whole Conference, which fully confutes all (except your owning my Relation) of that false and scandalous Account, which your Advocate has quoted as your own Words to me, when I visited you, and affirm'd that you told him so. And now Doctor let the World judge whose Language was most like that of a Fanatick, whether mine or your own.

In the next place, for a full Vindication of your Grandfather and his Family, from those false and scandalous Aspersions you have cast upon them ; I can produce the Testimony of some now living, who can justifie that your Father had a more liberal Education, under your Grandfather, before he sent him to the University, and a more plentiful Allowance from him there, than he could afford to give to any other Son ; and I likewise think it very unreasonable in you to suggest that your Grandfather ever entertain'd any Prejudice against the University, when himself was brought up at *St. John's College in Oxford*, and he sent your Father, (not to any Schismatical Academy, but) to *Kings College in Cambridge* ; which College, I believe, never went, by any one but your self, under the aforesaid Denomination, and his youngest Son (who died before he entred upon any publick Ministry)

Ministry) had his Education under the Reverend Mr. *Olliffe*, now Rector of *Dunton* in the County of *Bucks*, and was afterwards a Student almost three Years in *Pembroke-College*, under that worthy Prelate, Dr. *Hall*, late Bishop of *Bristol*; all which are convincing Evidences that your Grandfather was no such Person as you have represented him.

And tho' you have barbarously rak'd in his Ashes, by publicly, tho' falsely, charging him with Principles of Rebellion, yet 'tis well known to many now living, that his Preaching, his whole Life and Conversation, was a perfect Reverse to Rebellion, or any thing that had the least Tendency towards it, as will more fully appear by his Character, in an additional Postscript to this Letter, by which the World might see how much your paternal Grandfather *John Sacheverell* differ'd from your maternal Grandfather *John Smith*, who I suppose you have heard was one of the Regicides of *Charles I.* and it were to be wish'd that his own Grandson had not by his late Conduct given his Adversaries too just a Cause of imputing to himself that Sedition which is a common Harbinger of so high a Crime.

In the next place, it fills my Mind with Horror and Amazement, to think of what is offer'd to be attested for Truth,

by the Proposal of taking a most solemn and religious Oath for the Confirmation of no less than an absolutely false, groundless, and most abusive Slander, contain'd in that villainous Assertion, *That your Grandfather, John Sacheverell, disinherited your Father, and settled his paternal Estate on a more sanctify'd younger Son.* In answer to which notorious Falshood and absolute Impossibility, I think fit, for a just Vindication of my Father's Innocence, to affirm (what I can corroborate by abundant Testimony) that your said Grandfather never had in this World any paternal Estate of his own, neither did he ever settle any manner of Estate on any, either elder or younger, sanctified or un sanctified Son of his that ever was in being.

Your Grandfather had your Father by his first Wife, and none else but what died in their Infancy : By his second Wife he had no Child ; but by his third he had four Sons and one Daughter ; which third Wife was a Widow, Daughter of Councillor *Hussey*, of *Shaftsbury* in *Dorset-shire*. Her first Husband was one Mr. *Henry Derby*, an Attorney at Law, by whom she had only two Daughters, and for whom her said Husband had purchas'd a Copy-hold Estate of about sixty Pounds a Year ; which Estate your Grandfather held only by the Life of my Mother, whom

whom he made the sole Executrix of his Will, and therein bequeath'd to all his Children only Twelve Pence a-piece ; and when he died, he left her five Children which he had by her, the eldest of which was about twelve Years old, and she brought them up, and provided for them as well as she could, with the Income of this Estate, which was never settled on any one of your Grandfather's Sons, but descended to the right Heirs, viz. Her Daughters by her first Husband, the aforesaid Mr. *Henry Derby*, who had bought their Lives into it, and the elder of them now enjoys it. This Estate is in the Parish of *Stalbridge* in *Dorsetshire*. And now, Doctor (having fully vindicated my Father's Innocence) I challenge you to make proof of any thing contrary to the aforesaid Testimony, else the Guilt and Shame of such notorious Falshoods must lie at your own Door.

The liberal Education, and plentiful Allowance, which your abused Grandfather had, before his Decease, bestow'd on your own Father, having already been attested, in the next Place I positively affirm, that the choicest Books of your Grandfather's Library were by my Mother given to your Father, all which was a far better Portion than any other of your Grandfather's Children had from him : And I very well remember how your Father visited my Mother in her Widow-

Widow-hood, and stay'd sometimes several Days at her House; and neither then nor ever since, did I hear or observe any thing but what was most agreeable to an entire Friendship and good Correspondence with each other, all which serves to confute the Falshood contain'd in that impudent Assertion, *That your Father was treated by the Family, as a Bastard and no Son.* And if there was no Correspondence between the two Branches of the Family (as you have falsely affirm'd) then Dr. how is it that some Branches of your Father's Family came to receive of your pretended Fanatick Kindred, not only Dyet, but borrow'd Money and never repaid it, as well as Money given them, amounting to many Pounds: As for Diet several Months, as well as Money and other Gifts given them, your own Sister and Brothers (if living) are no Strangers to this positive Testimony; and as for Money lent, the Wife of your Brother *Thomas* borrowed Six Pounds of your Uncle *Samuel* to defray the Charges of her Husband's Transp—t—n, which Money was never repaid to him whom you so unworthily reflected on, when I made you the aforesaid Visit. And your own Sister and Brothers have formerly also been several times very civilly entertain'd at my House: From all which 'tis evident that your Father's Family have no manner of Cause to complain of Sufferings on their Account, (as
you

you have falsely asserted) but on the contrary, very good Reason to acknowledge them, as their real Benefactors: and from hence I justly conclude that there never was any old domestick Grudge, or the least Hatred upon Principle, to any one Branch of your Father's Family, tho' you have unjustly alledg'd the contrary; but I find a large Share of both is apparent in your self, else such detestable Falshoods had never been Printed, to excuse the Discovery of your own inhumane Temper. On this Head I solemnly protest I hate no Man upon Principle, but I bear an universal Good-will to all Men, especially and more entirely such in whom *the Fruits of the Spirit of God are visible*, tho' they may differ from me in lesser Matters, which are nothing material to Salvation; for meer Opinion, either by complying or not complying with things indifferent, will neither save nor damn any Man; and as for even those in whom *the Works of the Flesh are manifest*, their Persons being created in the Image of God, I look upon it as my Duty not to hate but to pity and pray for them, tho' their Vices ought to be the Objects of every good Man's Abhorrence.

And now to conclude; When I consider what a vast Number of Persons, of various Denominations, have been traduc'd and misrepresented by you, I cannot much wonder that at last some of your own Relations
have

have had a Share in the sad Effects of that infernal Malice, and un sanctified Spleen, which you have so much indulg'd. Having thus finish'd an unpleasant (tho' very necessary) Task, in casting out that Filth of false and scandalous Defamation, wherewith an ill Bird has taken so much Pains to defile his own Nest: If hereupon any Enemy to so reasonable a Performance, should alledge, that I have in some measure done the same thing; I answer, 'tis with a vast Difference, for the firm Basis of Truth is on my side, but the Calumnies of my false Accuser are without any real Foundation; and I found it impossible fully to vindicate the one, and effectually to detect the other, without exposing to the World some Particulars which otherwise might have well enough been spar'd; but therein I have written with the greatest Caution and Tenderness, when, Doctor, you very well know what I might have said. And therefore for all that signal Service done to the Memory of your Reverend Progenitor, together with the surviving Branches of his Family, I shall only request you to grant me one single Boon, which is, that for the future, you would endeavour always to be mindful of your Catechism, by *Keeping your Tongue from evil Speaking, Lying and Slandering*; this being the good Counsel of your faithful Monitor,

B. Sacheverell.

POSTSCRIPT.

MR. John Sacheverell, who was Grandfather to the famous Dr. Henry Sacheverell, was the eldest Son of Mr. ——— Sacheverell, Minister of Stoke-Underham in Somersetshire, a Man of great Reputation. This Mr. Sacheverell had many Children, and two of them were bred Ministers; viz. this John and Timothy, who were both of them of St. John's College in Oxon; and both silenced on Bartholomew-day, 1662. the former at Wincanton in Somersetshire, and the latter at Tarrant-binton.

Mr. John Sacheverell, whose Memory is to this day precious in most parts of the West of England, had first the Living of Rimpton in Somersetshire, which he quitted before the Restauration of King Charles II. and afterwards that of Wincanton in the same County. He had there but 30 l. per Annum certain Allowance, with a Promise of an Augmentation of 30 l. more from London; of which Augmentation he received not any more than for one half Year.

His Pains in this Place, in the Service of the Souls of those committed to his Care, were very great, as is attested by some yet living: And he had considerable Success in recovering many that were dissolute, and in the Conversion of several to a Love of God and true Goodness: And his Conversation was unblameable and exemplary.

He constantly rose early, and spent the Morning in his Study, and the Afternoon in visiting his

his Flock, and discoursing with them about religious Matters, till the *Saturday*, which was entirely spent in his preparing for the Work of the Lord's Day. That Day was usually thus employ'd; He began his publick Worship with a short Prayer in the Morning, and then read a Psalm and a Chapter, and briefly expounded them; and after Singing of a Psalm, he pray'd and preach'd for an Hour and a Quarter. In the Afternoon, he began at one, himself repeating his Morning Sermon, and examin'd young People as to what they had remembred; then pray'd and preach'd for about an Hour and half; and afterwards the Repetition of the Evening Sermon, and Examination of young ones about it, concluded the publick Service of the Day.

On the very Day of King *Charles* the Second's Coronation, he preach'd a Sermon upon *1 Sam. 12.24,25. But if ye shall do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both you and your King.* The Observation which he chiefly insisted on was this: That wicked Men continuing in their wicked Actions, are the greatest Traytors to the King and State wherein they live. Several went out of the Church in the midst of Sermon, and the Rabble got together, and in the Market-house impanel'd a Jury from among themselves, and represented a Formal Trial of the Preacher, and afterwards drew him in Effigie, with a Book in his Hand, which they call'd his Catechism, upon an Hurdle, through the Town to the Top of an Hill, where a great Bonfire was prepar'd. The Effigies was hang'd up upon a Pole, in order to be burnt, but the Wind driving the Flames away, the Effigies remain'd untouch'd, and was shot at by several with a great deal of Fury; and at length fell into the Flames, where it was consum'd.

sum'd. It was the Observation of many in those Parts, that several who were the most Active in this Frantick Sort of Diversion, which was accompanied with a great deal of Profaneness and Debauchery, had some one or other remarkable Calamity, that beset them soon after, and some of them died very miserably. An Account hereof was then publish'd in one of the Books of Prodigies; and the Names of several of them are remembered by many, even to this Day. And tho' perhaps there was then, as there is still, too great a Forwardness in some, in the Transports of their Zeal, to represent those things as Divine Judgments, which beset Men of a Party opposite to their own, yet Calamitys that are uncommon, sharp and peculiar Pains coming on a sudden, without any visible Cause, and attended with a peculiar Horror and Desperation, and that in the Case of several, are such visible Evidences of a Divine Hand, that no Man can with any Shadow of Reason pretend that they ought to be overlook'd.

A little after he was indicted at the Assizes, for continuing the Exercise of his Ministry, without reading the Common Prayer. When he was allow'd to speak for himself, he declar'd that if he had been requir'd by Authority to read the Common Prayer, he would either have done it or immediately have quitted the Living. He behav'd himself so well, that the Judge express'd himself to this Effect to those that were about him: *Have you no other Man than this in your County, to single out for a Pattern of your Severity?* Upon hearing all Matters, the Jury brought him in *Not Guilty*, and he was acquitted.

After his being silenc'd by the *Bartholomew-Act*, he retir'd to *Stalbridge*, where he had the Estate
men-

mention'd in the foregoing Narrative, in the Right of his Wife.

Being afterwards taken at a Meeting in *Shaftsbury*, together with Mr. *Bampfild*, Mr. *Hallet*, Mr. *Ince*, and some other Ministers, he and they were sent together to *Dorchester-Jail*, where he remain'd for three Years. In this Imprisonment, he and the rest of them, took it by turns to preach out of a Window to a considerable Number of People, that stood to hear on the other side of the River. In this Confinement, he contracted such an Indisposition, that of a very chearful active Person, he became very melancholy, and soon after ended his Days. He died in his Chair, speaking to those about him with great Vehemence and Affection of the great Work of Redemption.

He wrote in the Title-Page of all his Books, *To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*; which was the Cause of its being ingraven upon his Tombstone.

Mr. *Banger*, who was a Fellow-Sufferer with him, preach'd his Funeral-Sermon upon *Rom. 8. 22, 23.*

This Account was sent by one intimately acquainted with your Grandfather.

F I N I S.

Lately Publish'd ; The Eleventh Edition of
THE Modern Fanatick. With a large and true Account of the Life, Actions, Endowments, &c. of the famous Dr. *Sa———*. *Veritas magna est, & praevalabit.* By *William Bisset*, Eldest Brother of the Collegiate-Church of *St. Katherine*, and Rector of *Whiston* in *Northamptonshire*. London; Printed: And Sold by *A. Baldwin*, near the *Oxford Arms* in *Warwick Lane*: And *T. Harrison*, at the *West Corner* of the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*. 1710. Price 6 d.